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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,854	03/30/2001	Tatsuro Kawamura	43888-100	7033

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EXAMINER

GORDON, BRIAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,854

Applicant(s)

KAWAMURA, TATSUROU

Examiner

Brian R. Gordon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-13-05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 11-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed December 12, 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-9 and 11-25 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Elrod et al., Coville et al., and Sekiyama et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 5-7, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elrod et al. US 6,861, 034.

Elrod et al. discloses an apparatus and method for monitoring, detecting, and verifying the volume of fluid within a cartridge. The detection system is comprised of a laser light which is traversed by the fluid in the cartridge and a detector which receives the light and outputs a signal. The system is designed to keep the fluid level within a parameter range for suitable for dispensing. When the liquid level is detected to be

below a certain level, the appropriate action is taken to add fluid. See especially column 5, line 1 – column 6, line 65).

4. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coville et al., US 6,398,956.

Coville discloses a method of detecting the liquid level of a sample being supplied to reservoir 12. The device includes two optical paths. The purpose of light conducting paths 30 and 32 is to permit detection of the level of fluid in reservoir 12 and/or reservoirs 12a, 12b. When light path 30 is blocked, a sense signal indicates that the reservoir is filled to its desired level. When light path 32 is unblocked, a sense signal indicates a low level of fluid in reservoir 32 (column 12, lines 11-35).

5. Claims 1, 5-7, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sekiyama et al. US 5,965, 447.

Sekiyama et al. discloses a method of filling a container. The liquid level is monitored and sense as liquid is poured in the container (see column 9, lines 13-20; column 12, lines 18-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 1-9 and 11-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. US 4,943,416 further in view of Seyiyama et al. or Elrod et al., as applied above.

Kikuchi discloses an automatic urinalysis system which can be readily installed at an excretion site such as a toilet and by which means a subject itself can test its urine easily at any time and can obtain results of such test. The system comprises a sample collecting means for collecting a sample of urine within a stool or the like at an excretion site, a guiding means for introducing the collected urine sample into a testing area within a body of the system, a urine testing element located within the system body, a contacting means for automatically contacting the urine testing element with the urine sample in the testing area, a urine testing means for automatically testing the urine testing element contacted with the urine sample by the contacting means, a display means for displaying test data from the urine testing means, and a discharging means for discharging the urine sample into the stool after the urine sample has been contacted by the urine testing element (abstract).

After testing, the storage chamber and some other components of the automatic urinalysis system 1 which have contacted with the urine are washed and/or sterilized by a washing and/or sterilizing means 11 (claims 14-15).

While Kikuchi et al. disclose a urine level sensor, Kikuchi does not disclose measuring or verifying an amount over time.

Elrod et al. and Sekiyama et al. disclose methods in which a fluid level is measured over a time period.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system and method of Kikuchi et al. by incorporating level sensing devices as taught by Elrod et al. or Sekiyama et al. in order to provide an

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automatic urinalysis system which can easily and frequently test and analyze urine and can provide information of results of such analysis to a subject at an excretion site such as a toilet of a hotel, a department store, a firm or a house of the subject itself at which the automatic urinalysis system is installed without the necessity for the subject to take the trouble to go to a hospital or a medical testing center in order to undergo a medical testing of urine performed thereat by a doctor and/or a nurse (Kikuchi et al. column 2, line 1).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Van Der Mark, Martinus Bernardus et al.; Hayenga, Jon W.; Carroll; Wallace E. et al.; Saunders; Alex M.; Komatsu; Akihiro et al.; Gordon; Gary B. et al.; Hager; John P. et al.; Sakka; Toshiaki et al.; and Schildknecht; Kurt disclose light sensing devices.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, with 2nd and 4th F off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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